

Christmas Eve

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December 24, 2023

Pastoral Welcome

As we enter into worship, please silence your cell phones.

Prelude • *Prelude from Christmas Oratorio (C. Saint-Saens, Op.12)*

Call to Worship

PASTOR: *"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."* *Matthew 2:6*

ALL: Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:
He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:16

Carol of Adoration • *Angels We Have Heard on High*

#214

ALL: Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Prayer of Invocation

Old Testament Reading • Isaiah 9:2-7

- 2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.*
- 3 You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.*
- 4 For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.*
- 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.*
- 6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
- 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

Carol of Advent • *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

#194 (vv.1,3-4)

ALL: O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

New Testament Reading • Luke 2:1-20

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*14 "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

ALL: Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Carol of Advent • *O Holy Night*

SOLOIST: *O Holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of our dear Savior's birth;
long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices,
O night divine, O night when Christ was born,
O night divine, O night, O night divine.*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
and in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord, O praise his name forever.
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.*

6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

12 “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

ALL: Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

PASTOR: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

ALL: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

PASTOR: *God of mystery and might, we praise and worship you,
for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping,
to enter our world as a child of humble birth.*

We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, born of Mary.

In his face we behold your glory,

for in his life, as in his death, is your gift of salvation.

*By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving,
that we may give as we have received.*

Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you,

in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son.

ALL: *Amen.*

Candlelighting Carol • *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

#210

ALL: Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light:
with the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Benediction

Postlude • *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Musicians –Brent Johnson, Piano;
Quartet: Kyle Lombard, Violin; Lisa Chong, Violin; Chris Tantillo, Viola;
David Arato, Cello; Tim Cole, Tenor

Unless noted otherwise, all Scripture notations are from The ESV Bible
[The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, © 2001 Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
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Carol of Response (“O Holy Night”): Words by Placide Cappeau, translated from French to English
by John W. Dwight, ca. 1858. Music by Aldophe C. Adam, 1847; arranged by Brent Johnson.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

✠ Isaiah 9:6

If you are not receiving weekly Children's Ministries emails,
please contact Kelly Robinson (krobinson@cpctl.org).

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We would love to know you are here and answer any questions you may have.



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